

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

If they insist on airing one-sided programs, like "Stolen Honor", they should make it clear to the listening public that is a political statement for Bush. And they should be sure to air a pro-Kerry program like "Going Upriver" shortly after with the same type of statement. It would be better for neither to be aired unless the local stations make that decision.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.